

Appl. No. 10/780,935
Amdt. dated November 10, 2004
Reply to Office action of September 2, 2004

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In the current embodiment, the mulch-like material 1 is adhered to an upper surface of the base material 2. The base material 2 is a rubber or plastic mesh material, but can be made of virtually any type of material that resists degradation in normal weather environments as long as the material used is strong enough to be handled without breaking or tearing after the mulch-like material 1 has been adhered to the base material 2. Additionally, the material selected for use as the base material 2 must be sufficiently porous enough to allow water and moisture to seep through the material and into the garden soil, and the material must be capable of bonding to the adhesive 3 used to mount the mulch-like material to the base material 2. The mulch-like material 1 can be adhered to the base material 2 using any conventional technique. Preferably, the mulch-like material 1 is bonded to the base material 2 using a chemical or heat. Heat bonding can be done via ultra-sonic welding or by heating the mulch and base layer in an oven. Chemical bonding can be done using solvents which will cause the mulch layer to bond to the base material. To enhance the bonding (especially if accomplished via chemical or heat), the base material 2 and the mulch-like material 1 are made from the same type of plastic or rubber. Alternatively, the mulch-like material 1 can be

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adhered to the base material 2 using any well-known adhesive. If an alternative embodiment is elected wherein the mulch-like material 1 is attached mechanically to the base material 2, the material selected must be strong enough to sufficiently retain the mulch-like material 1 onto the base material 2. The base material 2 should also be flexible enough to allow for the proper installation of the rollable mulch carpet A onto various types of garden terrains. In the present embodiment, the base material 2 consists of a woven rubber or plastic mesh. As described, the mulch material 1 is adhered to the base material 2 only along a lower portion of the mulch material, leaving an upper portion of the mulch material exposed.